AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-4. (cancelled).

5. (currently amended): A method for detecting ~~the~~ a SARS coronavirus comprising amplifying a target nucleic acid region of the SARS coronavirus consisting of the nucleotide sequence~~using the oligonucleotide primer according to claim 1~~ of SEQ ID NO:1 using an oligonucleotide primer comprising at least 15 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:17, or a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, a second primer comprising at least 15 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:18, or a nucleotide sequence complimentary thereto, a third primer comprising at least 15 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:10, or a nucleotide sequence complimentary thereto, and a fourth primer comprising at least 15 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:19, or a nucleotide sequence complimentary thereto.

6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended): A method for diagnosing severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) comprising diagnosing infection with the SARS coronavirus by detecting amplification of a target nucleic acid region of the SARS coronavirus using the oligonucleotide primers according to claim ~~1~~ 5.

8 - 11. (canceled).

12. (currently amended): The method of claim 5, wherein ~~A method for detecting the SARS coronavirus comprising amplifying a target nucleic acid region of the SARS coronavirus using the oligonucleotide primer according to claim 3~~said first, second, third and fourth primers comprise a nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 selected from the following nucleotide sequences (a) to (d), provided that the F3c, the F2c, and the F1c regions are selected from the 3'-terminus and the R3, the R2, and the R1 regions are selected from the 5'-terminus of the target nucleic acid of the SARS coronavirus, and nucleotide sequences complementary thereto are determined to be F3, F2, and F1 and R3c, R2c, and R1c, respectively:

(a) a nucleotide sequence having the F2 region and the F1c region of the target nucleic acid at the 3'-terminus and the 5'-terminus, respectively;

(b) a nucleotide sequence having the F3 region of the target nucleic acid;

(c) a nucleotide sequence having the R2 region and the R1c region of the target nucleic acid at the 3'-terminus and the 5'-terminus, respectively; and

(d) a nucleotide sequence having the R3 region of the target nucleic acid.

13 - 20. (cancelled).

21. (new): The method according to claim 5, further comprising a fifth primer comprising at least 15 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:22, or a nucleotide sequence complimentary thereto, and a sixth primer comprising at least 15 contiguous nucleotides of SEQ ID NO:23, or a nucleotide sequence complimentary thereto.